



**NOAA
FISHERIES**

NEWSCAST

The Newsletter of the Marine Recreational
Information Program



May 5, 2015 IN THIS ISSUE

Fishing Effort Survey Transition Plan

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Transition Process

Benchmarking (Feb 2015-Jan 2018): The FES and CHTS will be conducted side-by-side to identify and account for the key factors leading to differences in the estimates. This process will also include additional research and studies.

Calibration model development (Sep 2015-early 2017): Looking at the results of the benchmarking, a calibration model will be developed that will enable an "apples-to-apples" comparison between the CHTS and FES estimates.

Re-estimation of historical catch statistics (May-Oct 2017): Once a calibration approach has been proposed, peer-reviewed, and approved, the model will be used to generate a more accurate time series of recreational catch statistics using the new FES estimates.

MRIP Fishing Effort Survey Transition Plan

In November of 2014, MRIP released the results of a pilot study that detailed a new mail-based method for surveying saltwater recreational anglers about their trips. Given the implications of this study, NOAA Fisheries recognized the new survey design cannot be implemented immediately and created an interdisciplinary Transition Team to develop a well thought out transition plan.

Today, we are sharing with you a comprehensive, three-year **Transition Plan** for incorporating estimates from the new mail-based Fishing Effort Survey (FES) into stock assessments and management decisions. The FES will be replacing the Coastal Household Telephone Survey (CHTS) to measure saltwater recreational fishing effort in shore and private boat modes on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts.

Transition Plan Overview

Developed by the Atlantic and Gulf Subgroup of the MRIP Transition Team, the transition plan outlines a detailed three-year process for shifting to the FES estimates for stock assessments and management decisions. During the transition, the FES and the CHTS will be conducted concurrently. This side-by-side benchmarking will allow an "apples-to-apples" comparison and enable us to develop a calibration model to convert historical time series of catch from old to new numbers.

The FES Transition Plan lays out a clear and specific path to ensure that the FES estimates are incorporated into stock assessments and management in a timely fashion, but also in a way that is scientifically sound, statistically robust, and ensures the sustainability of recreational fishing.

The Transition Plan also reinforces the critical decision to use CHTS estimates for science and management purposes throughout the transition process. For the new FES estimates to have statistical relevance, we must first complete the calibration process, and then integrate the numbers resulting from that process into the decades-long, CHTS-based stock assessment time series. The complete Transition Plan and more information about the new survey method can be found at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.

Incorporation of new estimates into stock assessments (Jul-Nov 2017): The revised catch statistics will be incorporated into stock assessments to provide the most accurate status of managed fisheries and provide data for setting new ACLs. The transition plan includes a prioritized list of species for updated assessments.

Incorporation of new estimates into ACLs and management actions (Nov 2017): Once revised catch statistics and new assessment results become available, managers will begin using them to make decisions moving forward.

The Marine Recreational Information Program, or MRIP, is the way NOAA Fisheries is counting and reporting marine recreational catch and effort. It is a customer-driven initiative that not only produces better estimates, but does so through a process grounded in the principles of transparency, accountability and engagement.

For More Information:

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Your chance to ask questions and learn more

MRIP will be hosting two webinars to provide an overview of the Transition Plan. Both webinars will cover the same information, therefore please attend whichever fits your schedule.

Monday May 18, 2015 - 12-1pm Eastern

https://noaast.adobeconnect.com/festransition_5-18-15

Call in and audio information:

[888-790-1895](tel:888-790-1895)

passcode: 8941907

Thursday May 21, 2015 - 12-1pm Eastern

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Learn more

To learn more about the mail-based Fishing Effort Survey (FES), transition plan, and other improvements MRIP is making, visit our website at www.countmyfish.noaa.gov.

In the Next Newscast:

Our next Newscast will summarize the important discussions and questions that arise from the FES transition plan webinars.

Ask MRIP

Do you have questions about MRIP or our surveys? Ask us and we'll answer your question in an upcoming newsletter. If you've got a question about MRIP that you'd like answered, please e-mail Leah Sharpe at Leah.Sharpe@noaa.gov.